

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RABAT 04434 221037Z
ACTION AF-10

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UNCLAS RABAT 4434

FOR SALAZAR

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, MRS. LILLIAN), MO
SUBJECT: MISS LILLIAN'S VISIT

REF: STATE 184095

1. FOLLOWING IS BIO ON PRINCESS LALLA AICHA, WHO WILL
SERVE AS KING'S INFORMAL HOSTESS DURING VISIT. FYI.
NO MEETING WITH KING WHO IS IN CASABLANCA IS CONTEMPLATED. MORE
DETAILED SCHEDULE FOLLOWS SEPTTEL.

2. LALLA AICHA.
THE ELDEST DAUGHTER OF THE LATE KING (1955-61)
MOHAMED V, PRINCESS LALLA AICHA HAS BEEN A LEADER IN
THE DRIVE TO EMANCIPATE MOROCCAN WOMEN SINCE 1947.
VEILLESS HER WHOLE LIFE, SHE IS CREDITED WITH BRINGING
OTHER MOROCCAN WOMEN OUT FROM BEHIND THE VEIL, EN-
COURAGING EDUCATION FOR FEMALES, AND ADVOCATING CHANGES
IN DIVORCE LAWS THAT FAVORED MEN. HER UNIQUE COM-
BINATION OF DRIVE, INTELLECT AND FAMILY CONNECTIONS
BROUGHT HER TWO AMBASSADORIAL ASSIGNMENTS--THE FIRST
FOR A MOROCCAN WOMAN--TO THE UNITED KINGDOM (1965-69)
AND ITALY (1969-72). LALLA AICHA HAS KEPT A RELATIVELY
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PAGE 02 RABAT 04434 221037Z

LOW PROFILE SINCE 1972, BUT FROM 1956 TO 1965 SHE
WAS ACTIVE IN THE COURT AND SERVED AS THE OFFICIAL
PALACE HOSTESS DURING VISITS OF HEADS OF STATE.
WIDELY TRAVELED, SHE HAS VISITED THE UNITED
STATES A NUMBER OF TIMES AND HAS ACCOMPANIED HER
BROTHER, KING HASSAN II, ON STATE VISITS.

LALLA AICHA WAS EDUCATED IN FRENCH LYCEES AND ATTENDED A COURSE IN SOCIOLOGY IN SWEDEN IN 1956. FROM 1953 TO 1955 SHE LIVED IN CORSICA AND MADAGASCAR, WHERE HER FATHER WAS IN EXILE. IN 1957 THE PRINCESS LED A DELEGATION TO DAMASCUS FOR THE FOURTH CONGRESS OF THE PAN ARAB WOMEN'S FEDERATION, AND IN 1969, WHEN THE NATIONAL UNION OF MOROCCAN WOMEN WAS FORMED, SHE WAS DESIGNATED HONORARY PRESIDENT. SHE HAS BEEN PRESIDENT OF THE CROISSANT ROUGE (RED CROSS) AND DIRECTOR OF THE ENTRAIDE NATIONALE--THE ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER FOR NEARLY ALL MOROCCAN WELFARE AGENCIES-- AND HAS HELD SEVERAL HONORIFICE POSTS WITH OTHER CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

THE 48-YEAR-OLD PRINCESS ENJOYS TENNIS AND HORSEBACK RIDING. SHE SPEAKS FLUENT FRENCH AND ARABIC AND LIMITED ENGLISH. LALLA AICHA IS MARRIED TO HASSAN AL YACOUBI, A BUSINESSMAN, AND HAS TWO DAUGHTERS, AGED 13 16.ANDERSON

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